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LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by the Government of Malaysia to support the request by the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina contained in Security Council document S/24916, dated 7 December 1992, calling for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to stop the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The intensified Serbian acts of aggression in recent days have once again underlined that Serbia and Montenegro and the Serbian forces operating in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina have no intention of adhering to the relevant Security Council resolutions and the London Peace Accords.

Malaysia believes that the Serbian acts of aggression have not only continued but are intensifying because the Security Council has not shown its willingness to either enforce its own resolutions or exempt Bosnia and Herzegovina from the arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia and enable the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise its inherent right to self-defence under the Charter of the United Nations.

On 13 August 1992, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/242 and in paragraph 5 of that resolution specifically "Urges the Security Council to consider, on an urgent basis, taking further appropriate measures, as provided in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, to put an end to the fighting and to restore the unity and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina". The adoption of resolution 46/242 by an overwhelming vote represents a clear will of the majority which should be respected by the Security Council.

Malaysia is convinced that the time has now come for the Council to live up to its responsibility and begin to take collective enforcement action as provided for under Article 42 of Chapter VII of the Charter.

As stated in the Malaysian statement made at the meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 13 November 1992, there need not necessarily be a full-scale invocation of Article 42 of the Charter all at once, but rather the Council could adopt a step-by-step approach.

In this context, the Council should take the following course of actions on an immediate basis to meet the threat of intensification of Serbian attacks in Bosnia and Herzegovina in recent days:

(a) Establish safe areas and no firing zones in Sarajevo and other Bosnian towns within the framework of United Nations protected zones;

(b) Enforce Security Council resolution 781 (1992) banning Serbian military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(c) Open up more airports/airfields for international humanitarian relief flights, including airdrops in areas controlled by the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(d) Issue an ultimatum to the Serbian forces to stop their attacks on Sarajevo and other Bosnian towns and population centres and disarm their heavy weapons, and if they fail to comply, authorize air attacks on Serbian military headquarters, artillery and tank positions, supply dumps and troop concentrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(e) Exempt Bosnia and Herzegovina from the arms embargo imposed on former Yugoslavia and allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully exercise its inherent right to self-defence under the Charter.

It should also be pointed out that most of the suggested course of actions have been raised by my delegation as well as others at the Security Council meeting on 13 November 1992 and most recently at the sixth extraordinary session of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, on 2 and 3 December 1992 in Jeddah.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) RAZALI Ismail
Ambassador